

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 02663 221457Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 EB-08 CU-06 OIC-02 /045 W
-----084631 221503Z /45

P 212120Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7023
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

UNCLAS BOGOTA 2663

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: AORG, CO
SUBJECT: PROPOSED 1979 BPW HEMISPHERIC CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 066185

1. ONLY HOTEL IN BOGOTA WITH ADEQUATE CONFERENCE FACILITIES IS HOTEL TEQUENDAMA, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY INTER-CONTINENTAL CHAIN. ACCOMODATIONS CONSIST OF SINGLE, DOUBLE AND TRIPLE ROOMS AS WELL AS SEVERAL TYPES OF SUITES. REGULAR ROOM RATES AS OF MARCH 1978 ARE AS FOLLOWS:
SINGLE ROOM - US\$30
DOUBLE ROOM - US\$37
TRIPLE ROOM - US\$45
SUITES RUN FROM US\$51 TO US\$171
RATES EXPECTED TO RISE BY 40 PERCENT OVER NEXT YEAR. (ABOVE FIGURES AT 38 PESOS PER DOLLAR).

2. TEQUENDAMA CONFERENCE FACILITIES HAVE BEEN VERY SATISFACTORY FOR COMMERCIAL TRADE MISSIONS AND ROOM ACCOMMODATIONS ARE UP TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS. HOTEL LOCATED IN INTERNATIONAL CENTER OF BOGOTA CLOSE TO OLD PART OF CITY. RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE SEVERAL MONTHS IN ADVANCE.

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3. BEST TIMING FOR CONFERENCE IN BOGOTA IS JAN-MARCH PERIOD WHEN WEATHER IS BEST, & RATE OF OCCUPATION IS LOWEST.

4. BOGOTA ACCESSIBLE BY DIRECT FLIGHT FROM PANAMA, MEXICO CITY, CARACAS, QUITO, LIMA, BUENOS AIRES AND RIO ON BRANIFF, AVIANCA AND SEVERAL OTHER SOUTH AMERICAN AIRLINES. THESE ARE INDIRECT CONNECTIONS

WITH ALL OTHER WESTERN HEMISPHERE CAPITALS.

5. BPW SHOULD BE AWARE THAT BOGOTA'S HIGH ALTITUDE (8,700 FEET) USUALLY CAUSES BREATHING DIFFICULTIES OF SHORT DURATION IN SOME HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS. THOSE WITH KNOWN SIGNIFICANT HEART OR LUNG PROBLEMS SHOULD NOT VISIT BOGOTA WITHOUT CONSULTING PHYSICIAN.

6. ALSO, THERE IS AN UNUSUALLY HIGH RATE OF STREET CRIME, SUCH AS PICKPOCKETING AND PURSE SNATCHING, WHICH IS PARTICULARLY RIFE IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF HOTEL TEQUENDAMA. RARELY, HOWEVER, DOES PERSONAL INJURY RESULT. DURING 1977 THERE WERE 86 OFFICIALLY REPORTED KIDNAPPING CASES, ALMOST ALL WHICH WERE OF COLOMBIAN BUSINESSMEN.

7. ACCORDING TO COLOMBIAN TOURISM CORPORATION (COLTURISMO) TEQUENDAMA IS ONLY HOTEL IN COLOMBIA WITH LARGE ENOUGH FACILITIES TO HOST CONVENTION. ASECIO

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